

From: mumum@hotmail.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/15/01 10:34am
Subject: Microsoft Trial Comment

To whomever it may concern,

I believe that the decision made by the Department of Justice and the nice settling states was a fair and adequate one. It will impose certain restrictions to allow competitors to be able to get their products out to consumers and also give them an equal chance where one was not present before. Although, what I don't agree with at all is the fact that the remaining nine states are choosing to pursue this further. There should be no way that the restrictions they have suggested should go through or even be considered. Allowing other companies access to protected source code violates patent laws and making it so that Microsoft will not be able to add anything to their OS is unspeakable. It is afterall their piece of software and any company should be able to create something and add to it what they please. Offering two versions, being a light version and a regular version makes perfect sense, but not just a stripped down version. We see now that competitors such as Sun Microsystems, AOL-Time Warner, Oracle and Apple have continually intervened with the trial proceedings and now they are coming out with technologies and products that will damage Microsoft. While consumers should be protected, the United States and its parties are not and should not be out to destroy companies that contribute so much revenue to the overall economy. Another restriction asked by the states is that Microsoft include the Java VM by Sun Microsystems in their OS. This is absurd, as in 1997, Sun sued Microsoft for using it and modifying it, making it clear that they didn't want them to use it. Why would it be forced on them now? Furthermore, how can anyone even fathom the idea of forcing competing software on another company. It makes sense when Bill Gates made the comparison of saying that we can't force Pepsi to bundle a can of Coke with every six pack. Just like you can't get a Mercedes Benz dealership to make and sell Toyota cars for them. It just doesn't make sense any way that you put it. Consumers should have a choice, yes, but this choice is up to them to create for themselves. It was deemed that Microsoft should not decide what consumers should be able to use, but equally the Federal Government and governments of the individual states should not credit themselves with the authority to be able to do this either.

I hope my comment has been taken to heart, because Microsoft is one of the greatest innovators in the history of US enterprises and hurting them more than necessary is a huge and terrible mistake. They make excellent products and I have benefited from them for many years. As a consumer I don't see where the harm came in in the first place, but these other restrictions are ludicrous in their very nature. If it goes through, we would be destroying the very principles on which the concept of Free Market enterprises was created, it is an attack on her soul.

This should be considered as well as many other points, I have not been able to mention.

Your truly,

Stephen Ristich

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